

# Resort-like camping proposed on Tahoe ridge



Tent Site



Eco Shelter



Camper Site

Three types of camping will be available – tent, RV and eco-shelters.

**By Kathryn Reed**

KINGS BEACH – Pristine isn't a word developers of the Brockway Campground like to use when describing the 104-acre site. To the average camper pristine might be exactly the word for it.

Campers aren't going to care how many times it has been logged by Sierra Pacific Industries – the land owner, or the fact that first generation trees don't exist or that this mixed conifer forest has white fir, red fir, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine and incense cedar. They will be there to relax and play, and will probably never realize 18 percent of the trees that

exist today will have been removed to make room for the campground.

What is proposed is a camping experience for a whole new generation.

“The generation coming up hasn’t tended to fire much. They are used to a flick of a switch,” Kurt Krieg with Mountainside Partners told *Lake Tahoe News* while on a tour of the property. His firm is the developers. “It’s the way camping is going. Propane-gas is better for the environment.”

In other words, instead of wood fire rings at each campsite, there will be shared gas ones. Wood will be allowed – but only used by staff for ranger talks and group activities.

Campers will hardly have to rough it in ways that go beyond not having to light a fire. While tent camping will dominate the 282 campsites, RVs will be allowed and there will be eco-shelters so people don’t have to sleep on the ground.

Plus, there will be dining facilities so cooking over a Coleman stove isn’t necessary. And the pool will be an option instead of the forest to play in.

Krieg said the camping market has changed and that people want these types of amenities. Plus, there will be shuttles provided so people could get to Lake Tahoe or one of the nearby towns without driving themselves.

This area is already a haven for hikers and cyclists, with the Tahoe Rim Trail crossing Fibreboard Freeway. Sixteen miles of trails exist on this side of Highway 267, with another 40 miles on the other side. It would also be possible to ride-hike into Northstar ski resort.

The campground will be seasonal; open about 130 days.

Slivers of Lake Tahoe can be seen from different vantage points. Mount Pluto (the peak at Northstar at 8,617 feet) is a

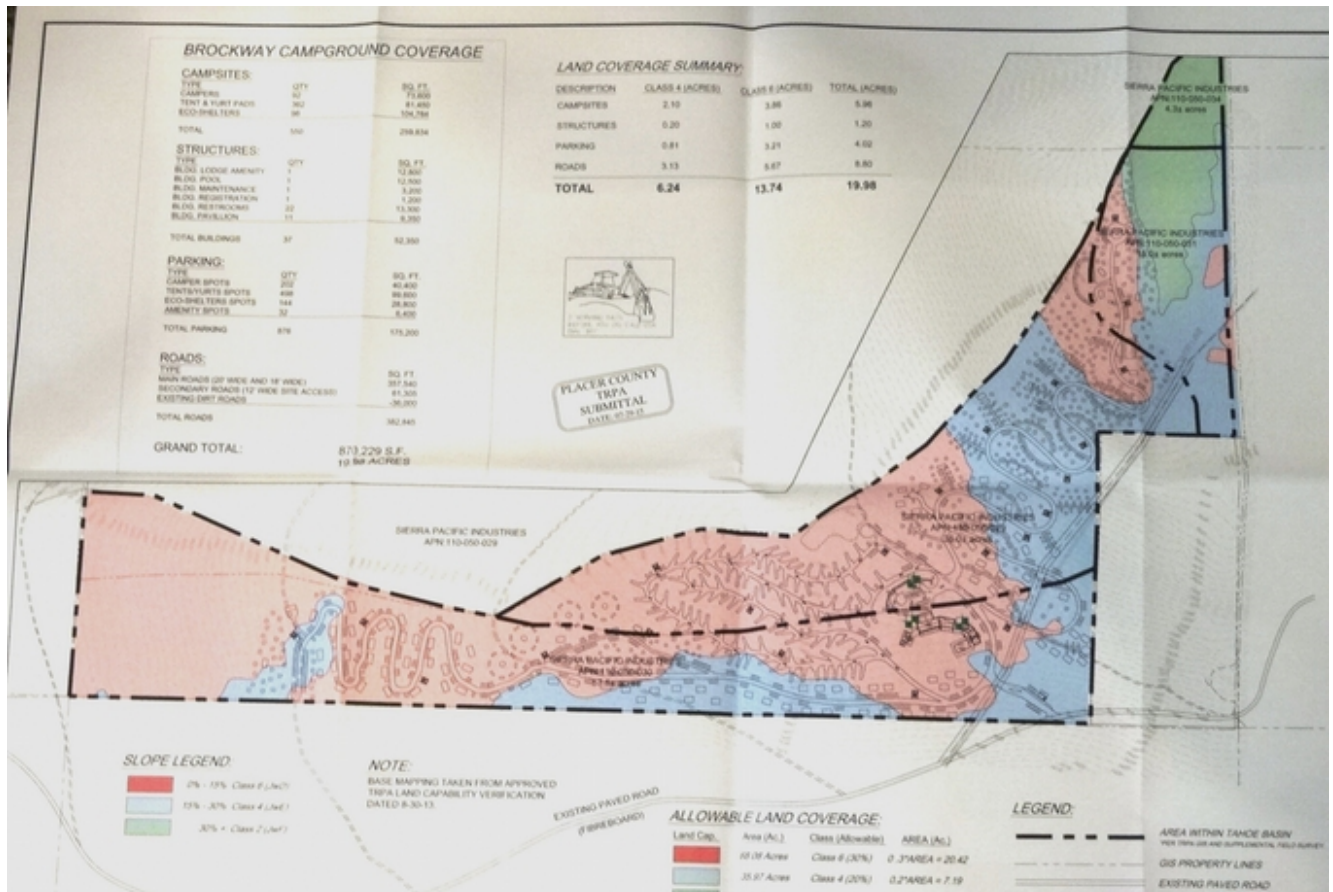
landmark.

Krieg said the campground would not be visible from Kings Beach or Tahoe City.

Mountainside Partners at one time had planned 112 residences on the land. That idea has been scrapped at the urging of planning officials and others.

There is only one main road into the parcel – Fibreboard Freeway (which is a bit of a misnomer of a name) off Highway 267 between Kings Beach and Northstar, so access to emergency vehicles could be an issue. The U.S. Forest Service maintains the road, with the land to the right (1,192 acres) belonging to Sierra Pacific Industries and land to the left being USFS. This road that was built in the 1960s and last improved in the 1980s will be upgraded. The campground entrance will be just more than 1 mile in from 267. There will be one entrance, with a loop system created for the sites as is common at most campgrounds.

Developers have a tentative date of Sept. 23 to present the project to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board. Placer County Board of Supervisors will also have a say in the approval process. An environmental impact study and environmental impact report will be prepared.



The layout of the proposed campground.

Here is what others shared with *Lake Tahoe News* about the project:

- **Mary Bennington, executive director of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association:** "We have mixed reactions to the proposed project. On the positive, it could provide a water source, showers, parking and bear boxes for TRT users and through hikers. Possible negative impacts include, potentially causing a significant increase to the number of users on the sections near Brockway which may then increase maintenance needs, cause user conflicts and change the user experience."

- **Tom Mooers, Sierra Watch:** "Can't really offer a position, because we haven't seen an actual proposal. But I can offer a comment: Everyone loves camping. But we'll have to put sentiment aside and take a clear-eyed look at the proposal. We're talking about a relatively pristine and

*remote corner of the Tahoe basin, and we'll have to carefully assess what the resort – with new roads, buildings, lights, sewage hookups, water demand, etc. – would mean to Tahoe, Martis Valley, and beyond.”*

· **Darcie Goodman-Collins, executive director League to Save Lake Tahoe:** *“This is not a traditional campground proposal. We are talking about locating accommodation for more than a thousand visitors on 120 acres of forested land in fairly pristine and natural condition, far from existing town centers. It remains to be seen if any development of this scale – regardless of whether it’s a campground, a major hotel or a some other type of larger scale resort complex – could be developed in a manner that is in line with our region’s goals to protect Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe basin’s natural resources.”*

· **Michael Schwartz, fire chief North Tahoe Fire Protection District,** : *“Since the fire district is a part of the review process for Brockway Campground, it would be inappropriate for us to comment at this time. While we have had some preliminary discussions with the applicants, Mountain Partners, we have not seen or reviewed plans for the proposed campground. It is important to note that the fire district is not a land use planning agency. However, should the project be approved, the district will be responsible for ensuring that the campground meets the stringent best practices for development in the wildland urban interface and complies with state law and fire code. The district currently serves six campgrounds, so we are familiar with public safety concerns and other issues related to providing emergency services within recreation campgrounds.”*

· **Alexis Ollar, executive director Mountain Area Preservation:** *“Mountain Area Preservation has not seen the actual proposal yet from the project applicant, Mountainside Partners. Our initial comments/concerns are focused on the*

*scale of the proposal, 550 campsites located on the ridge of North Lake Tahoe in an undisturbed area adjacent to existing recreation on the Tahoe Rim Trail seems like too intense of a use for the landscape and topography. We are concerned the proposal will add further traffic congestion to Highway 267, creating more green house gas emissions and air pollution impacts for the Lake Tahoe and Martis Valley area. While we understand camping is an allowed use, we are unsure the use is appropriate for the landscape.”*

· **Kathy Carter, Liberty Utilities:** *“Utilities do not have a say in growth issues, but are mandated by the CPUC to provide service to any new customers.”*

· **Sandy Evans Hall, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association:** Did not respond.



Most of the acreage is covered in conifers, with a few open spots. Photo/LTN

**Lake Tahoe News** posed the following questions to Blake Riva, managing partner at Mountainside Partners:

**LTN:** Why was the decision made not to build the 112 units and instead go with a campground?

**Riva:** *We were asked by local agencies to consider a project on the basin lands that did not include traditional residential development. A campground is a permissible use under current zoning, it makes private land available for public use, plus it meets the goal of the Regional Plan update.*

**LTN:** Economically, wouldn't the permanent housing be more profitable?

**Riva:** *We are excited about the prospect of the campground, as it will offer the public a new opportunity to experience and enjoy the incredible recreation available in North Lake Tahoe in a beautiful, natural setting. Our studies indicate that a campground is a viable business in Lake Tahoe.*

**LTN:** Will the campground be leased to some entity to operate while Sierra Pacific Industries retains ownership of the land? Any idea who that might be?

**Riva:** *We will determine how best to operate the campground once the entitlement process is complete. As the entitlement process is just getting under way, there is plenty of time to consider various alternatives.*

**LTN:** With a swimming pool, coffee shop, general store, pocket parks and other amenities, this won't be your typical campground. It sounds more like a resort. Can you describe what the area is going to be like? And what type of camper do you anticipate visiting Brockway Campground?

**Riva:** *We anticipate campers who wish to enjoy a great outdoor experience will be interested in staying at the Brockway Campground. The proposal includes a mix of campsites, with the heavy focus on traditional tent camping sites. There would also be sites for campers and yurts or canvas*

tents that are on a platform, for those who don't have their own tents or prefer that style of camping.

The inclusion of a general store, gathering areas, a small dining venue, swimming pool are actually the type of amenities that are commonly found in today's campgrounds. The Tahoe basin and surrounding area have not had any new campgrounds in over two decades.

The idea is to provide those who are camping with the ability to stay at the campground once they arrive if they wish to and use it as their "home base." They will have access to the basics, i.e. general store for items they may have forgotten at home, the ability to rent a bike to use on the nearby trails accessible from the campground, as well as the ability to take a shuttle to access the recreation, shopping and dining at the lake and in Truckee.

**LTN:** How many people could stay overnight?

**Riva:** Industry statistics reflect typical occupancy is 2.5 people per site, on average. Also, it is typical that loops and enclaves are opened and closed on demand. D.L. Bliss and Sugar Pine are two examples.

**LTN:** How many employees will be needed during peak and non-peak periods? Where do you anticipate they will live? What types of jobs will there be?

**Riva:** The campground will be seasonal, thus the majority of positions will be seasonal employment. The types of positions could include maintenance, check-in/registration and guest services.

**LTN:** What exactly are the eco-shelters and how many people would they sleep?

**Riva:** Eco-shelters can be accommodations such as yurts or canvas tents on a platform. Typically they can accommodate up

to 4-6 people per.

**LTN:** The site allows for 832 campsites. Do you foresee developing the remaining 282 sites at any point?

**Riva:** No. While permissible use allows for up to 8 campsites per acre (totaling 832 possible sites), our land plan as designed reduces the density proposed to roughly 5 sites per acre. This represents a 34 percent reduction to what is allowable. The 550 sites that have been proposed for the Brockway Campground would be phased over time.

We have had numerous consultants study the land and its topography. While the design is far less than capacity, we feel it will provide a better camping experience.

**LTN:** According to the USFS and Outdoor Foundation, RV camping nationwide has decreased by 14 percent since 2006 and there has been a 20 percent decrease in non-RV, non-backcountry camping in that same period. With numbers like that, why do you believe this campground will be successful?

**Riva:** The 2015 North American Camping Report shows some different statistics with regard to camping. Please find the study [here](#).

Existing Tahoe campgrounds are in great demand, and are often fully reserved a year in advance. As there aren't that many lodging opportunities on the North Shore, and with existing campgrounds in the basin being so popular and often booked well in advance, as well as primarily located on the West and South Shores, the Brockway Campground would offer visitors more opportunities to enjoy a seasonal camping experience in a beautiful, natural setting in North Lake Tahoe.

**LTN:** Describe what the winter use would be like and how many sites would be open.

**Riva:** The application for the Brockway Campground as proposed

*is for summer seasonal use. We have not contemplated winter use, and in any case, the Fibreboard Freeway would remain closed during the winter months.*

**LTN:** The campground site is very close to your company's planned development of 760 residential units in the Martis Valley that are outside the Lake Tahoe Basin. How would these two projects complement each other or potentially be a conflict? Where is that project in the planning process?

**Riva:** *As the proposed Brockway Campground and Martis Valley West parcel project are two separate, unrelated projects, they will neither complement nor conflict with each other. One is not dependent on the other.*

*The seasonal nature of the campground, significant buffer between the two, as well as tree retention will provide positive experiences for both campers and homeowners.*

**LTN:** Many people believe this much development on the ridgeline is environmentally unsound. Any comment?

**Riva:** *As with any proposed development project, the Brockway Campground will be subject to a thorough review process. It is important to note that a campground is a permissible use, and is consistent with TRPA's Regional Plan update mission.*

**LTN:** Both projects will bring added traffic to the area. How will this be mitigated?

**Riva:** *Traffic studies will be completed as part of the environmental review process. Initial studies anticipate over 80 percent of Brockway Campground guests will arrive from Interstate 80, traveling from the north through the Martis Valley and turning off at Brockway Summit on the Fibreboard Freeway to access the campground. As the Brockway Campground is a seasonal use facility, it is also important to note that access to the campground will only be available in the summer. Currently, peak traffic on Highway 267 is experienced*

during the winter season.

To reduce vehicle trips once guests are on-site, campground guests will have access to shuttle services that will be provided from the campground to/from nearby recreational and shopping locations.

**LTN:** What are the planned ingresses and egresses to the campground site? Is there a map of this?

**Riva:** Access to the campground will be via the Fibreboard Freeway, a seasonal, paved road that also provides access to the Watson Lake campground and recreational trails. It will continue to be managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

**LTN:** What does access to hikers mean? Will new trails be developed? If so, how many miles? And will these be multi-use trails – hikers, cyclists, equestrians, motorized users?

**Riva:** The Brockway Campground is positioned near the Tahoe Rim Trail, close to Northstar, as well as 56 miles of existing hiking, biking and multi-use trails in the area. There are no plans to develop additional trails at this time. The campground would enhance public access to these trails that are already open for public use and recreation.

Specifically for through hikers on the TRT, the Brockway Campground would offer an opportunity to restock water, supplies, stay overnight and shower. Currently, there are no opportunities to refill water or restock supplies between Tahoe City and the Mt. Rose Wilderness, which accounts for nearly 30 percent of the TRT.

**LTN:** You have said the response has been “overwhelmingly positive”. Who has said what?

**Riva:** We have had conversations about the Brockway Campground with the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association, the Boys & Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe,

*the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, North Tahoe Business Association, as well as other local residents, business owners and camping enthusiasts.*

**LTN:** Who do you believe will be the detractors and what do you have to say to counter their arguments?

**Riva:** *While there will always be some who don't want to see anything change, we were specifically asked by regional environmental groups to consider proposing a permissible use on the basin land, and we've done just that. We would like to encourage people to familiarize themselves with the project proposal and ask questions throughout the public process to ensure they have the facts.*

**LTN:** The campground is going to be "green" – is there a campground someplace else doing what you propose?

**Riva:** *California and other Western states are leaders in "green" initiatives. As the first new campground in Lake Tahoe in over 20 years, Brockway Campground will be the most eco-friendly in the region.*

**LTN:** You are proposing gas fire pits. Will there be any wood pits? Will wood be allowed to be burned at all anywhere in the campground? If not, why not? Will there be individual pits or will they all be shared?

**Riva:** *There will be two iconic wood campfire sites located in guest gathering areas that will be managed by staff. Wood will not be allowed to be burned elsewhere in the campground.*

*As is becoming the industry standard with newly developed campgrounds, the Brockway Campground will provide gas fire pits in an effort to significantly reduce the risk of fire danger. Gas fire pits are substantially more environmentally friendly, and emit far less smoke and air particles than do wood burning fires.*

**LTN:** How will the solar power be generated? What size will the panels be? What will they look like and how will they tie into the natural scenery?

**Riva:** *Solar power will be the ancillary power sources that will be on remote buildings or signs to minimize ground disturbance.*

**LTN:** If the environmental impacts prove to be too great for this project, would you consider going back to the 100-plus luxury units?

**Riva:** *We have suspended the area plan, however we do not anticipate the environmental impacts being significant with mitigation.*

**LTN:** Is additional development planned on other SPI lands in the proposed resort recreation zoning. If so, what?

**Riva:** *At this time, there are no other pending proposals for development, and the area plan has been suspended.*

*It is important to note that the final resort recreation designation, an area plan and a Regional Plan amendment is not required on the land on which the campground has been proposed. A campground is a permissible use according to the current zoning, and would require only a minor use permit.*

**LTN:** Your company is Mountainside Partners. It used to be East-West Partners, which filed for bankruptcy after building the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe and Northstar Village. What assurances can you provide that Mountainside Partners won't suffer the same fate with the campground and Martis Valley projects? How much will the campground project cost? Have you secured financing?

**Riva:** *Mountainside Partners has a strong financial partner committed to funding the Brockway Campground. It will be a phased project built out over time based on market demand.*

**LTN:** When would you like the first campers to be able to book a site? How many phases do you expect and when will it be completed?

**Riva:** *The entitlement process is likely to take anywhere between 12-18 months to complete. The earliest campers might be able to book a site would be the summer of 2018.*

**LTN:** Would you try to build this as Liberty Utilities is doing its upgrades so as to minimize the disturbance to the lands?

**Riva:** *We are always looking to minimize disturbance and share synergies, whether with Calpeco, USFS, CalFire or others.*

**LTN:** With no utilities at the site now, what will it take to get sewer, water, electric and gas to the area and do all the entities have the necessary capacity to accommodate this project as well as the Martis Valley project?

**Riva:** *Water will be secured on site from wells. Since the campground is seasonal it will have propane gas. Electric is an efficient over land run with minimal disturbance. We are anticipating septic for sewer as limited seasonal flows.*

**LTN:** Anything else you would like to add?

**Riva:** *The exciting elements of this project include the fact that camping is for everyone, and the Brockway Campground would provide incredible access for the public to experience the outdoors in North Lake Tahoe. Currently there are 18 campgrounds that represent a total of 2,066 campsites in the Tahoe basin, and only 46 of those campsites are located between Tahoe City and Zephyr Cove. If approved, the Brockway Campground would help bring the camping opportunities in the basin more into balance, and would offer an outdoor experience that is not currently available in North Lake Tahoe.*

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# Opinion: Online speech in the U.S. is really free

By Caitlin Dewey, Washington Post

In the past 12 months, popular Internet discourse has been severely afflicted with a malady we'll call the PCs. There's a lot of bellyaching, in short, over the perceived encroachment of "political correctness" and the persecution of "free speech." First Gamergate griped that it was being silenced; then users cried censorship over Twitter's more aggressive abuse policies; now Reddit, in a much-debated about-face, is zapping its most racist communities.

But here's a little reassurance/reality check for you: Regardless of the rules private companies pass, the U.S. still has some of the strongest protections of Internet speech anywhere. If you want to say something racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, misogynistic, anti-feminist, anti-corporate, cruel, subversive or incendiary – this, my friends, is your country.

**[Read the whole story](#)**

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# Dressing casually is all about freedom of choice

By Deirdre Clemente

I study one of the most profound cultural changes of the 20th century: the rise of casual dress – the “why” and “when” our sartorial standards went from collared to comfortable.

As Americans, our casual style uniformly stresses comfort and practicality. A hundred years ago, the closest thing to casual was sportswear – knitted golf dresses, tweed blazers, and oxford shoes. But as the century progressed, casual came to encompass everything from worker’s garb (jeans and lumberman jackets) to army uniforms (khakis). Americans’ quest for a low-key style has stomped on entire industries: millinery, hosiery, eveningwear, fur. It has infiltrated every space from the boardroom to the classroom to the courtroom.

Americans dress casual. Why? Because clothes are freedom – to choose how we present ourselves and to blur the lines between man and woman, old and young, rich and poor. The rise of casual style undermined millennia-old rules that dictated noticeable luxury for the rich and functioning work clothes for the poor. Until a little more than a century ago, there were few ways to disguise your social class. You wore it – literally – on your sleeve. Today, CEOs wear sandals to work.

Despite the diversity of choice in the clothing market today, so many of us tend toward that vast, beige zone between Jamie Foxx and the girl who wears pajama bottoms on the plane. Casual clothes are the uniform of the American middle class. T-shirts, jeans, and wrinkle-free shirts make “middle classness” available to anyone who chooses to put it on. And in America, nearly everyone wants to put it on because nearly everyone considers himself or herself to be middle class.

Our country’s casual style is America’s calling card around the world – where people then make it their own. It is witnessed by the young boy on the Ivory Coast wearing a Steelers jersey and in the price of Levi’s on the black market in Russia. Casual is diverse and ever changing, but it was made in America.

The introduction of sportswear into the American wardrobe in the late 1910s and early 1920s redefined when and where certain clothes could be worn. The mass acceptance of sportswear coincided with the consolidation of the American fashion industry. By the end of the 1920s, firms produced designs, worked with manufacturers, and marketed specific kinds of garments to specific demographics.

A second milestone was the introduction of shorts into the American wardrobe. The popularity of bicycling in the late 1920s brought about a need for culottes and shorts. Shorts remained time-and-place specific for women (gardening, exercising, and hiking), until the Bermuda shorts craze of the late 1940s, when women turned plaid wool shorts into legit fashion.

At all-male Dartmouth College in May 1930, the editors of the student paper challenged their readers to “bring forth your treasured possession – be it tailored to fit or old flannels delegged” so that the men could “loungue forth to the supreme pleasure of complete leg freedom.” The Shorts Protest of 1930 brought out more than 600 students in old basketball uniforms, tweed walking shorts, and newly minted cutoffs, and introduced shorts into the American man’s wardrobe.

Americans moved into the 1950s with more options to self-create than ever before. Fundamental to this freedom is a “unisexing” of our wardrobe, a third milestone on our quest to go casual. Women didn’t really didn’t wear pants until the 1930s, and it was not until the early 1950s that pants made it mainstream. There were still discussions and regulations about women in pants well into the 1960s.

That decade saw seismic shifts in “unisexing.” Women adopted T-shirts, jeans, cardigans, button-down collared shirts, and for the first time in nearly 200 years, it was fashionable for men to have long hair.

To dress casual is quintessentially to dress as an American and to live, or to dream of living, fast and loose and carefree.

*Deirdre Clemente is a scholar, public historian, and teacher. She is the author of "Dress Casual: How College Kids Redefined American Style" and served as a historical consultant for the Baz Luhrman film, "The Great Gatsby". She wrote this for What It Means to Be American a national conversation hosted by the Smithsonian and Zocalo Public Square.*

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## **Calif. offering rebates on toilet, turf replacement**

**By Bay City News Service**

California residents can now get rebates to help replace old, inefficient toilets and thirsty lawns with water-saving alternatives, the state Department of Water Resources announced Wednesday.

The "turf and toilet" rebate program will use \$24 million in funds from Proposition 1, a water bond approved by voters in 2014, to help replace more than 10 million square feet of lawn and an estimated 60,000 toilets, department officials said.

**Read the whole story**

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# State getting involved in Olympic Valley incorporation

The California State Controller's Office is being asked to review the draft comprehensive fiscal analysis regarding the incorporation of Olympic Valley.

Placer County LAFCo commissioners voted 6-1 on Aug. 12 to ask for the state to weigh in on the matter.

"We are very pleased that the commissioners agreed 6-1 with our concerns, recognizing the need for the draft CFA to be reviewed and corrected. We are confident that the state controller will confirm and resolve errors made by RSG. Once corrected, we firmly believe the CFA will show the proposed town of Olympic Valley to be financially viable," Fred Ilfeld, chairman of Incorporate Olympic Valley Foundation, said in a statement.

A group of citizens is trying to incorporate so there is more local control in matters, specifically with development. Squaw Valley ski area wants to expand the base area to include various types of lodges, amusement park like attractions and retail.

In conjunction with sending the draft CFA for controller review, LAFCo delayed payment and processing for the environmental impact report.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

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# Report: Nevada homes among most overvalued

By Eli Segall, Las Vegas Sun

Nevada homes not only were the most overvalued in the country at the peak of the housing bubble last decade, but prices are among the most inflated now, new data show.

Homes statewide are 15 percent overvalued, tied for highest in the nation with North Dakota and Hawaii, according to analysts with Fitch Ratings.

Reno homes are 20 percent overvalued; Las Vegas homes, 14 percent.

**Read the whole story**

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## Vehicles and the shared economy to be discussed

The Geeks are in Charge: Big Data, Autonomous Vehicles and the Sharing Economy is the subject of a webinar and discussion on Aug. 19.

The event is from 11am-12:30pm in the Aspen Room at Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe.

This webinar will examine the emerging technologies – from autonomous cars and trucks, to app-based for-hire transportation, to smart bikes, to GPS-based performance monitoring systems – and their implications for state and

local government policies and programs. How much will carshare companies affect car ownership? Will Uber and Lyft flood streets with for-hire cars? How will the development of autonomous trucks affect the competitive balance between truck and rail freight? How will these innovations impact state and local infrastructure programs?

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## Tahoe boat racing history subject of talk

Randy Walker was born into racing. His family had competed in the Tahoe Yacht Club regattas since their inception and his father, Bob Walker, was commodore of the TYC in 1939 and 1940.

The younger walk will give a free talk Aug. 17 at 4:30pm a the Tahoe Maritime Museum in Homewood.

At 14 years old Walker started promoting the TYC boat races around the lake. A few years after this early start, he became a long time announcer for the regattas. For five years, Walker headed up the Club's Trophy Committee and also served as commodore.

He was instrumental in making the TYC more family oriented and he started the Tahoe Yacht Club Junior Outboard races in 1954. These were races in which children as young as 7 and up to 21 years of age could compete in different classes of boats. Walker provided everything for these races, from the awards to the buoys and everything else necessary for the course. The junior races lasted until 1984.

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# Calif. man attacked by black bear

**By Associated Press**

FRESNO – Wildlife authorities say a 67-year-old California man fought off a black bear that attacked him from behind then drove himself to a hospital.

Lt. Chris Stoots of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said such attacks are rare, but black bear encounters are on the rise due to the drought.

Stoots says the man, whose name was not released, was on his porch Thursday and likely startled the bear that was feeding on trash 20 feet away.

Stoots says it took the man several attempts to fight off the bear and get back inside his home in Midpines, west of Yosemite National Park.

He says the man was bitten and scratched on his arms, legs and stomach. He was able to talk with investigators.

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## Multiple projects designed to protect Tahoe



Mats at Emerald Bay  
suffocated clams. Photo/LTN  
file

**By Sarah Litz, Reno Gazette-Journal**

Protecting Lake Tahoe is more difficult than it looks.

Tahoe's clarity has decreased, non-native species have increased and algal blooms are threatening the beauty and productivity of the nationally known lake.

However, public agencies have teamed up with scientists, marinas and lakefront homeowners on a new strategy to protect, combat and restore near shore ecosystems in a joint effort between UNR and the Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

The focus of the new funding and strategy is Tahoe's near shore, an area up to about 50 feet deep, where Tahoe's 3 million annual visitors now interface with more than 30 non-native species including Asian clams, Eurasian milfoil and several warm-water fish. These species disturb Tahoe's native ecosystem and food chain, impair the lake's clarity and clog its marinas, piers and boat propellers.

**Read the whole story**